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PTQ7589

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

PAGE 01 CARACA 03026 01 OF 02 272102Z
ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00 WHA-00
PERC-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 VCE-00 AC-01
NSAE-00 ACE-00 IRM-00 EPAE-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-02
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W

-----EE2CFE 272102Z /38

R 272023Z SEP 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7900
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003026

NSC FOR LLORENS, AMB. MAISTO
INR FOR FERNANDEZ
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
AID/DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/12
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EAID, VE
SUBJECT: CHAVISTAS IN APURE ON THE DEFENSIVE

REF: CARACAS 02957

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5
(B) AND (D).

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SUMMARY

1. (C) HAVING HELD A BOISTEROUS THOUGH PEACEFUL MARCH ON
SEPTEMBER 20, THE CHAVISTAS IN APURE OFFERED TO POLOFF
THEIR DEFENSE OF "PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY" AND FEARED THAT
THE OPPOSITION WOULD ATTEMPT TO DEPOSE CHAVEZ BY FORCE.

B1

END SUMMARY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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CHAVISTAS STEP LIVELY

2. (U) THE CHAVISTA MARCH IN SAN FERNANDO DE APURE
SEPTEMBER 20 WAS A BOISTEROUS, THOUGH PEACEFUL, AFFAIR.

[REDACTED] ESTIMATED ABOUT 3,000 B6
PARTICIPATED. FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT LEGISLATOR [REDACTED] B6
[REDACTED] BRAGGED THAT ALL THEIR MARCHERS "WERE RIGHT FROM B6
APURE," WHILE THE OPPOSITION'S SOMEWHAT LARGER MARCH
CONSISTED OF TRUCKED-IN OUTSIDERS. A FEW OF THE
PARTICIPANTS COMPLAINED THAT A GLOBOVISION FILM CREW FAILED
TO COVER THE MARCH AND THAT THE PRESS WAS IN GENERAL BIASED
AGAINST THEM. TO PROVE THIS POINT, [REDACTED] SHOWED POLOFF B6
A HEADLINE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER THE NEXT DAY DESCRIBING
THEIRS AS THE "OFFICIAL" MARCH AND THE OPPOSITION'S AS THE
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"DEMOCRATIC" MARCH.

"MEETING WITH THE GRINGO"

3. (U) PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 20 MARCH, POLOFF MET WITH
SEVERAL CHAVISTA LEADERS FROM APURE'S BOLIVARIAN PATRIOTIC
BLOC--THE FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT (MVR), FATHERLAND FOR ALL
(PPT), THE POPULAR ELECTORAL MOVEMENT (MEP), AND THE
VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCV). THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO
ENGAGE IN AN "EXCHANGE" WITH, AS ONE PUT IT, "THE SECOND
SECRETARY FROM THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."
OVERALL THEIR TONE WAS FRIENDLY; ONLY THE COMMUNISTS SEEMED
ALOOF.

3. (U) THE OVERRIDING THEME WAS THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE
"FASCIST" OPPOSITION'S PLANS TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT CHAVEZ,
AGAIN. [REDACTED] ASKED RHETORICALLY B6
WHY THE OPPOSITION WON'T WAIT FOR THE RECALL REFERENDUM
NEXT AUGUST. HE SAID THE CHAVISTAS WERE CONTENT TO PURSUE
THIS PROCEDURE, BECAUSE IT'S STRICTLY CONSTITUTIONAL, BUT
THE OPPOSITION KNOWS THEY CANNOT WIN IT. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATOR [REDACTED] B6
[REDACTED] B6
ADDED HE WAS AWARE OF PLANS TO KILL CHAVEZ, BUT HE
ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NO IDEA OF HOW SERIOUS THESE ARE.

[REDACTED] B1

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AND THEY

JUSTIFIED THE SHOOTING BY CHAVISTA LOYALISTS ON APRIL 11 AS
AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE BECAUSE "THE POLICE FIRED FIRST."

B1

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W	
-----EE2D07 272102Z /38							

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SHAPIRO.

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